



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 5, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Bilingual/ESL/ESL Points of Contact; District/Building Administrators; Curriculum and Instruction Directors/Coordinators/Supervisors
From: Peggy McDonald, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services
Deadline: April 10, 2020

Conference: Welcoming Newcomer Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFEs)

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will host the Welcoming Newcomer Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFEs) Conference, which is part of a series of learning events designed for administrators and educators who support the success of Newcomer SIFE students. The event will take place Wednesday, May 20, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Douglass College Student Center, Rutgers University.

Newly arrived English language learners (ELLs) make up an increasingly growing student population in New Jersey; some of who come to school with interrupted formal education. The focus of this event will be specific to the unique strengths and challenges SIFEs experience. Educators will learn how *everyone* in a school can work collaboratively to ensure equitable academic, social, and emotional learning.

Conference objectives:

- New Jersey school educators will have a common understanding of Newcomer SIFEs and be able to apply it at the school level to increase appropriate identification and program supports; and
- Participants will have an increased awareness of current and relevant educational opportunities to support Newcomers in their local schools.

School districts are encouraged to [register](#) teams consisting of upper elementary through high school staff, including a combination of District/building administrator(s), curriculum/instruction leader(s), intake staff, instructional staff, and counseling/student support services personnel. Staff must register individually.

If you have any questions, contact Jacquelyn León in the NJDOE's Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at (609) 376-9080 or email ELL@doe.nj.gov. We look forward to our continued partnership to support all students.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group